

Serial No.: 09/623,793

In the claims:

1. (Currently amended) Apparatus for transferring a fluid to a sterile field comprising a casing having a first part and a second part, wherein said casing is configured to receive a syringe containing said fluid and maintain sterility of said syringe when said first part is connected to said second part, said syringe may be removed from said casing when said first part is disconnected from said second part, said first part is adapted to receive a ~~first~~barrel portion of ~~a~~said syringe and allow sterile, fluid communication with said syringe from a non-sterile field outside said casing, said second part is adapted to receive a ~~second~~plunger portion of said syringe, and ~~at least one of said first~~said second part is and second parts is configured flexible in the direction of movement of said plunger to allow operation of said ~~syringe~~plunger when said syringe is in said casing and said first and second parts are connected.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim ~~2~~1 wherein said first part is a rigid tube ~~and said second part is flexible~~.

4. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ wherein ~~said one of said first and second parts is a bellows~~.

5. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim~~3~~ 1 wherein ~~said one of said first and second parts is made of a thin flexible sheet~~.

6. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 5 wherein said thin flexible sheet is in the shape of a bag.

7. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim ~~2~~1 wherein said first part is adapted to receive only part of said barrel portion and said second part is adapted to receive said plunger portion and a part of said barrel portion.

8. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim ~~2~~1 wherein said second part comprises means for releasable engagement of said plunger.

9. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 8 wherein said means for releasable engagement comprises a clamp.

10. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 8 wherein said means for releasable engagement comprises a disc with a slot for receiving an end of said plunger.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

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13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said first part includes a connection configured to engage an inlet of said syringe for sterile, fluid communication between said syringe inlet and said non-sterile field.

15 (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 14 wherein said connection provides a lap joint between said casing and said syringe inlet.

16 (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 14 wherein said connection provides a Luer connector between said casing and said syringe inlet.

17. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 14 wherein said connection provides a Luer connector on the exterior of said casing for engaging a needle located in the non-sterile field.

18. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said rigid tube includes gripping elements.

19. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 5 wherein said flexible sheet allows a user to grasp said syringe through said flexible sheet.